(b) whether it is a fact that abductions and killings of Indians in Afghanistan and other countries are on the rise in the recent past;

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that recently, an Indian from Kerala was killed by Talibans; and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken through diplomatic and political channels to put pressure on the Government of Afghanistan for providing more security to the Indians working there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sities of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security forces are provided for Indian citizens.

(b) There was one case of abduction and killing of an Indian national in Afghanistan in November, 2005. Another Indian national was among the four persons, of whom three were foreign nationals, who were killed in a car explosion in Februrary, 2006.

(c) Government of India, through its Embassy in Kabul, has issued a security advisory containing guidelines for Indians working in Afghanistan. In cases of specific perception of threat, the local Government is approached to provide security.

(d) The Afghan media had reported that the Taliban had claimed responsibility for the recent killing of an Indian from Kerala in November 2005, (mentioned above).

(e) Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, at various levels, and has taken up the subject of security of the Indians working in Afghanistan.

Indo-Bangladesh relations

*100. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Bangladesh relations have deteriorated, recently;

(b) if so, the detials thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being/have been taken to improve our relationship with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh. There has been a regular exchange of high level visits and meetings in recent times. During these meetings, India has reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both our countries and to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Proposal of NPCIL

404. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared, in principle, four nuclear plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details of nuclear plants cleared by Government;

(c) the expected power that the four proposed nuclear plants are going to add to the nuclear power capacity of the country;

(d) whether any time-frame has been given to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited to submit its proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has accorded in-principle clearance for four sites for setting up additional nuclear power plants. These sites are Kudankulam-Tamil Nadu, Kakrapar-Gujarat, Rawatbhata-Rajasthan and Jaitapur-Maharashtra.

(c) The sites cleared are for a cumulative capacity addition of 6,800 MWe.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.